

Bloomfield Citizen.

WEEKLY JOURNAL

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THE CITIZEN solicits contributions from the general public on any subject—political, religious, educational, or social—as long as they do not contain any personal attacks.

All communications must be accompanied by the writer's name, not necessarily for publication, but as an evidence of good faith.

Advertisements for insertion in the current week must be in hand not later than Friday noon.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 1906.

Frankish Motormen.

All the rules and safeguards that apply to the operation of a well-conducted street railway system are probably pleaded somewhere in the office or waiting rooms of the Orange and Passaic Valley street railway, and theoretically the rules are in force in the operation of the road. In practice, however, the motormen appear to be allowed to follow a "go as you please" method, providing they do not lose time in making trips.

The motormen of the Croonstown line appear to find great diversion in cutting each other off from sidings, and usually the motorman is more intent upon being first at a siding than upon anything else pertaining to his duties. The Orange Journal thus describes one of the recent feats of rival motormen:

"Tuesday morning there was a tie-up of the road during the rush hour and a closed car came down to the end of the line at Morris street and took on several passengers who had been waiting for it. While the motorman and conductor were changing the trolley and preparing for the return trip, an open car came over the turn-out and started down the single track for Morris street to head off the preceding car. The crew of the first car did the hustle act, and started back over the track when the second car got to Beach street. This made the open car men hustle also. They turned the trolley and assumed first place ahead of the closed car and then gathered up all the waiting passengers.

"Then the motorman of the closed car commenced to crowd the other motorman who had usurped his place on the line, and the open car man found the race was too swift for him at Highland avenue, and turned off the line at the turn-out there. This allowed the closed car to take the lead once more, but it kept all the passengers who had taken the car that came first to them waiting until the rear-most car with its light load of passengers took the lead, where it properly belonged. In other words, the passengers were needlessly delayed for several minutes while the two motormen went through a Frankish and entirely unnecessary series of evolutions. In addition to that, the open car had not gone to the end of the line, and people who missed the open car had to wait for the third car instead of catching the car succeeding the open car, or briefly were kept waiting just twice as long as they should have been had the motorman of the second car run his vehicle to the end of the line."

Nuisances.

Frequent complaints have been made in this town in regard to the soft coal nuisance, especially on the steam railroads passing through here, and petitions have been presented to the Town Council from time to time to have the evil abated. One resident of the Fairview section declared that the soft coal nuisance was not only detrimental to his property, but was so bad on the Erie Railroad that one member of his family could not remain at home. If the Council has not the power to abate the growing nuisance, the courts certainly have, and we frequently chronicle the fact that they have come to the rescue of those afflicted with various kinds of nuisances. A case in point has just occurred in the vicinity of Plainfield, Union county. It appears that a legal contest has been waged for two years against Theodore Glaser of Allentown, Pa., for maintaining a fertilizer factory which, it was claimed, was detrimental to health. A decision was rendered against Glaser last week, and he was fined ten dollars and the costs of the trial by a justice of the peace. The suit was instituted by the officials of Fairview township, and the verdict implies that Glaser must remove the factory, which is one of the largest of its kind in that section.

If the residents of this town who are continually asking the Council to abate the soft coal nuisance caused by the railroads would only apply to the courts for redress, something might be accomplished. Certainly there would be no harm in making the experiment.

Musical Instruction.

Piano instruction given at residence at home. Terms reasonable. Miss Minnie Birch, No. 25 Alameda street, Bloomfield.—Advt.

In Field and Woodland.

To nothing does the proverb "To everything there is a season and a time," apply more truly than to nature's annual floral procession, which, beginning early in spring, ends only on the advent of frost and ice, in the shortening autumn days. Some families or species claim our attention by reason of their abundance and showy color, for weeks before retiring, while others pass rapidly, or by reason of their inconspicuousness, or our lack of observation escape notice altogether. Just now seems to be a somewhat slack time in the floral display, with the great autumn exhibit of goldenrods and wild asters, still some weeks away, yet those who go far enough afield and into the shade of the woods, can even now find many things well worth the effort if they know where and how to look for them.

The present season, on account of its prevailing humidity, has caused an excessively rank growth of woody vegetation, which has overgrown many woodland paths and makes it difficult and disagreeable to follow them. This is especially true where tick trails border the paths, which it does only too frequently, and in such situations it still makes one of the most conspicuous displays of color to be seen in an afternoon ramble. Its earlier flowers have already matured into tick-like seeds which stand in ranks and rows each side the path ready to attach themselves by their sharp hooks to any article of clothing to which they can cling and get free transportation. Yet its bright pink blossoms are still abundant, and so danger of tick-bite threatens its extinction.

One plant now in blossoming season, its name probably not generally known, makes quite a display, occurring as it usually does in masses, either on moist ground or shaded slopes; it is called horse balm, botanically *Collinsonia canadensis*. (See Mrs. Dana's "How to Know the Wild Flowers," page 177.) Of water plants some flowers of pickerel weed, and many of arrow head may still be seen.

Another flower now in bloom and comparatively rare has no common name given, but is called by the botanists *Polygala sanguinea*. It grows near moist places, and I have lately found associated with it the orchid called "ladies' tresses," just beginning to show its white petals, its season being September and October.

Near these also occurred some opening flowers of the turtle head. In nearly all moist grounds the conspicuous heads of the iron weed still catch the eye and a close observer may now and then see a belated monkey flower. Vervain and self-heal, evening primrose, hawkweed and moth mullein all add their bits of color, though the seed, bearing receptacles are crowding it closer and closer to the end of the flower spike. Wild carrot and bonenest with its allied species of eupatorium now hold a prominent place in many a view. Then, too, the maturing seeds of earlier species are still worthy of notice. Among those most interesting may be mentioned black and white cohosh, Solomon's seal and false Solomon's seal, bellwort and nightshade, to say nothing of the stick-tight crowd which attach themselves to us and claim our attention whether or no.

Of course we do not here pretend to give a full list of what may now be seen or may be worth seeing. Probably very few who go out to view the handiwork of nature as shown in the flora of their locality, either see all the species they pass by or are able to name all or nearly all they see. If there are those who can do so, the writer is far from claiming a place among them. In the hope that a few at least may be prompted to an ambition to make the unknown and unrecorded list of our flora one from year to year, these lines have been written. N. F. UNDERWOOD, Aug. 29, 1906.

Belleville's Assessment.

Despite the fear of William Connolly, tax assessor of Belleville, that he had assessed the value of property in the township too high when he placed the total at \$5,150,000, the County Board of Taxation decided on Thursday that the figures are about right, as the result of an inspection of the assessor's books and of an estimate formed by a recent visit to the township. The board, therefore, refused to make any material reduction in the valuation.

"At the first meeting," said President Anderson of the county board, "we asked all the assessors what their percentage of increase had been over the previous year. Some said about fifty per cent, and some 100 per cent. Mr. Connolly left with the belief that he should jump his assessment about fifty per cent, and we found that his valuations this year were \$5,150,000. After he had left his book with us, he returned and asked leave to take it back, because he feared the valuations were excessive. That is why we decided to make a personal inspection of Belleville. We found conditions there about the same as in Bloomfield. Both are quiet places, and have little growth. We found some places over 100 years old, and that could be purchased cheap, but we feel that on the whole the valuations were no higher than they should be, so what changes we made were insignificant, and will not affect the tax rate."

Church Services.

In the Park Methodist Episcopal Church to-morrow evening Dr. Hurlbut will preach a sermon for Lybor Day on "A Workman Needing Not to be Ashamed."

Services in the Watsessing M. E. Church to-morrow will be as follows: Sunday-school, 10 A. M.; preaching by the pastor, 11 A. M.; Sacrament of the Lord's Supper; Sacramental Message, "The Christian's Hope"; vesper service, 6.30 P. M., subject of sermon, "Knocking Knocking." Mr. J. George Balise will render two solos.

Letter from Europe.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE CITIZEN:

SIR—A short letter from this, my birthplace, which I left forty-eight years ago because of class prejudice, to wit: my father was a carpenter, and hence it was taken for granted that I must become a carpenter, for which I had not the slightest inclination, and so I wanted to become a merchant. I was accused of being ashamed of my parents, etc. The consequence was that America became my permanent home, and this is my first visit to Rendsburg, which has been much improved by many fine public buildings, and beautified by many small but nicely appointed parks, with lakes in which swans form a feature of great beauty.

I think my last letter ended with my arrival at Cologne, an old and beautiful city on the Rhine. I shall always remember Koeln (Cologne) for its grand cathedral, the architecture of which is to my mind, the finest old Gothic I have seen in my travels. I attended high mass in this cathedral, which was celebrated by and participated in by not less than five hundred priests and acolytes in most gorgeous vestments. This service closed with a procession around the interior of the building of all the participants, preceded by a large gold cross and numerous candles, all chanting in grand harmony to the great organ, which filled the immense edifice. In the midst of the procession walked the bishop, a man of commanding figure, robed in vestments most rich, who sprinkled incense to either side, on Catholics and Protestants alike. The whole service was most impressive, and it is really no wonder that this church has so large a following. Here also is a very fine museum, which is filled with articles of all kinds of the remote past.

The next city visited was Koblenz, which is most noted for its beautiful situation and scenic effects. Koblenz is a quiet, pretty city. The only building really worth visiting is the Kaiserlich Palace, which contains many works of art in porcelain, bronze and marble, which were presented to the house of Hohenzollern. The atmosphere of Koblenz, because of its situation, is clear and bracing at all times, and the view across the Rhine to the fortification (which appears to be very formidable) and the town of Ehrenbreitstein, with its monuments, is a sight which will never be forgotten. No one visiting Koblenz should fail to go from Ehrenbreitstein by trolley to Ahrnbach to view a church and park connected with the same. The inside of this church, with its many carved containing figures of our Lord, etc., is constructed wholly of small pieces of quartz and shells, which were sent from all parts of the world to a priest, who was forty-seven years in building it. The sunlight effects through cathedral glass on lifelike figures I have never seen surpassed. This trip, including fees, can be made for about fifty cents.

If I had the time, and you would grant the space, I would like to describe the pleasure of a trip on the historic Rhine. I have been told by Americans that our Hudson excels the Rhine in beauty, and if left there I accept the statement as a fact, but in scenic effect, especially between Koblenz and Rudesheim, with the many fine castles and ruins (some of which are very much ruined), the Rhine excels the Hudson in grandeur and beauty. H. C. BECK, RENDSBURG, Germany, Aug. 15, 1906.

Boss vs. Boss.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE CITIZEN:

SIR—I was quite amused in reading the article you published in your issue of August 25 in reference to former Freeholder Frank F. Smith of the Eighth ward of Newark and the treatment he received at the hands of the boss of the "new idea" party, Senator Colby, and it shows very clearly that if Mr. Colby could have his way all the time he would become a bigger boss than Major Carl Lentz ever attempted to be. Is it not about time that this large movement of the Colbyites was "played out"? The people are becoming tired and sick of the so-called reform tactics of this "new idea" party. It is quite evident from all the recent transactions of that party, of which you have kept your readers well informed, that the principal object of its members is to get into office, and if the candidates are not acceptable to Mr. Colby, the boss, they are told to get down and out. Mr. Smith is not the only prominent member of the Colby party to become disgusted with the dictatorial manner in which the leader has acted of late, and it is quite evident that there will be more defections before the fall election. Under which boss will you serve, Lentz or Colby? That is about the size of the matter as it now stands. I am glad that Mr. Smith had the manliness to tell Mr. Colby what he thought about his interference in the selection of candidates for office.

We have heard much talk about the arbitrary manner in which Major Lentz presides over the deliberations of the Essex County Republican Committee, but a warm friend of mine, who occasionally attends the meetings of the committee, though not a member, assured me that nothing could be further from the truth. The Major, he said, was very courteous, and always deferred to the wishes of the members of the committee. F. MONTREY, REPUBLICAN.

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Spelling Reform.

MISTUR EDITOR:

SUR—I am glad to note that the President has that best of spell the English language just as it is pronounced. Three or four years ago I made an attempt to do the same thing in my letters to you, but the comments I had were not very favorable, so I gave it up. It is gratifying to me to see that others take as I do in the matter of spelling. It will take some time to get used to the change, but I must see one thing in its favor—think of the immense saving of ink and paper. My real object in writing to you is to inquire if the Public Service Company, when the obtained permission to run there here three Bloomfield avenue to Montclair, did not agree that certain numbers from Newark should make Liberty street, and no further, the terminus. I can recollect when the rails were being laid that for a long time police officers were kept on duty day and night to prevent the company from making the connection until an agreement was made. It was foreseen that if all the cars were allowed to pass through the Bloomfield peep wood have small chance of obtaining seats either way. I have an impression that for some time a number of the cars did stop at Liberty street; but if so, this disconcerted it a long time ago, and now it is a common thing to see a number of ladies and gentlemen waiting for a car only to find it full. Now I think the company should put a line on all the cars going to Montclair and Caldwell, should those destinations, and those marked Bloomfield should go no further than Liberty street. If such an agreement as I mentioned was made our Town Council should compel the company to keep it.

I am also under the impression that when the trolley company obtained permission to lay tracks from Orange the agreed within a certain time to extend the tracks to Brookdale, and at a later period to Paterson. Don't you think the Brookdale peep are very pushy, and is it not about time that these agreements were fulfilled? The lines on the cars once read "Passaic Valley and Orange." Now the read "Orange Valley and Bloomfield." This looks as tho the company had given up the idea of any further extension of the road.

I want to make one more enquiry. Why, when the Town Council opened Park street, did the not continue the same to Bloomfield avenue? It is a great inconvenience to a large number of people to be obliged to go to Liberty street or Park avenue to reach Bloomfield avenue. It puts me in mind of some of the streets in Boston that lead to a stone wall, and compels one to go back and start over again. Sum time or other Park street must be finished, and it ought to be done before anybody blids on the lot where the street ought to be.

OBEID OLDBOX.

New Jersey Insurance Investigation.

The Prudential Insurance Company of America has prepared for distribution a statement made by President John F. Dryden before the Judiciary Committee of the State Senate to investigate life insurance in New Jersey. The statement was prepared in accordance with the committee's general request for information, and covers the whole range of the company's industrial business. Concerning the statement the Newark Advertiser says: "Senator Dryden's statement to the Judiciary Committee is of peculiar interest and value. It is the most complete and lucid exposition of life insurance, and especially of industrial insurance, that has ever been made."

The Prudential announces that any one desiring a copy of this statement can have the same by writing to the home office of the company at Newark, N. J.

Enjoyable Outing.

Sixty-five members of the local Lodge of Elks and their friends enjoyed an outing at Olympic Park, on the outskirts of Irvington, on Thursday night. The party left here by special trolley car at six o'clock. The committee in charge of the affair consisted of J. William Johnson, John F. Dillon, George Hummel, William A. Fife and Nicholas Dugan.



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